

Insurance woes

After scrambling to find an insurer, the U of A is beefing up driver safety.

2

Free trade (some restrictions apply)

Cross-border shopping for prescription drugs has sparked pharmaceutical industry infighting and could lead to larger trade disputes.

3

Happy Holidays

The next edition of Folio is Jan. 9, 2004.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

folio

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Failing students get a fresh start

Program helps students change their fortunes

By Richard Cairney

Jennifer Ritchie was devastated when she failed her first year of university and learned she'd have to leave the University of Alberta. But a new program gave her a second chance and has led to new success as a student.

Until the Fresh Start program began last year, students who failed their first year of studies were simply dropped by the U of A. Fresh Start, thought to be the only program of its kind in the country, gives those students a chance to stay on campus and raise their academic standing. Seven U of A faculties participate in the program.

"This program puts a human face on the university. It shows that students aren't just numbers," said Dr. Marsha Padfield, director of the program. "This is a tremendous thing the university is doing. We are tapping the resources of wonderful, intelligent people who would have been lost to us and, more tragically, lost to themselves."

It's surprising to know who some of the students who fail are: 15 of the 120 students admitted to the Fresh Start program in its first year were highly regarded recruits who had earned prestigious U of A Academic Excellence Scholarships. Thirty-five of the students had average entrance grades between 80 and 89 per cent.

"These are kids who come in from high school and fall flat on their little faces," said Padfield. "These are not dumb kids. It just tears them apart that they've failed. I've had men and women sitting here in my office crying – just devastated. They are in shock."

And there is a stigma attached to flunking out. Many of the students are "acutely embarrassed" about failing and don't want their parents or friends to know. "Some of them don't even tell their parents," said Padfield.

Students fail for a number of reasons. Some of them, Padfield says, have gone all the way into their first year of university without much effort.

"Some of them have no study skills – they've never really studied before. They got all the way into their first year of uni-



Dr. Marsha Padfield and student Jennifer Ritchie discuss the Fresh Start program, which gives students who have failed their first year of studies the chance to stay on campus and improve their grades.

versity and realized they have developed no study skills. I hear that all the time."

Ritchie was enrolled in her first year of university as an Arts student, taking classes she needed to get into the U of A School of Business. She was also breaking a golden rule of Padfield's by working about 30 hours a week while taking on a full course load. She was also dealing with health problems.

"There was so much going on that university actually turned out to be a pretty small part of my life," she said.

Ritchie also realized that she didn't want to study business after all.

"I was studying math and statistics and economics, and I'm just completely not interested in that," she said. "It just wasn't doing it for me."

Ritchie fits a common profile of Fresh Start participants, according to Padfield, who says the biggest problem students have is dividing time between work and study. Some students, she says, simply aren't cut out for university. Others

should consider working full time and saving enough money before enrolling, she says.

Another problem is students who are bending to "a tremendous amount of parental pressure" studying courses their parents want them in.

As a result, Padfield finds herself acting as a mediator between students and parents when she's helping students plan their academic futures. Fresh Start students aren't allowed to take on a full course load and Padfield must approve their course selections. One mandatory class teaches them how to be successful students.

Ritchie, who is now working towards an education degree, said she was pleasantly surprised by the class.

"It gives you a lot of strategies on how to take notes, how to study for exams, all the little basic things that you think you already know," she said. "At first I figured, 'this is stupid. I already know this.' But the more I went the more I learned.

And I thought, 'if I already know this, then why have I been leaving all of my studying to the night before an exam?' The class reinforced what I had to do."

When she received a letter informing her she'd failed and was required to withdraw from university, Ritchie had no where to go. Her university grades weren't high enough to allow her college entrance. "I was just a mess," she said.

Now, she's looking forward to earning her education degree in a little over a year from now. Her plans even include a three-week, six-credit French class in France this summer.

"I don't know what I would have done without Fresh Start."

"This will pay off big time," said Padfield, who credits Dean of Students Bill Connor and former associate vice-president (academic) Anne Marie Decore for coming up with the Fresh Start idea.

"We are giving a lot of wonderful people a chance to get their lives back on track." ■

Richard Cairney

New safe driving initiative underway

Poor driving habits nearly cost university \$1 million per year

By Richard Cairney

With as many as 1,200 permanent and casual drivers logging an estimated 2.5 million km per year, it's no wonder the University of Alberta's insurance rates, like everyone else's, have been going up. But things took an especially nasty turn a year ago when it appeared no insurer would cover the U of A because of its poor driving record.

In 2002, U of A drivers had a particularly bad year, with a number of serious, third-party accidents. Allianz Insurance decided it would no longer cover the university. The U of A scrambled to find a firm willing to take it on, fearing it would be forced to buy coverage from an organization known as the Facility, a sort of insurer of last resort. The financial implica-

tions were intimidating: the university's insurance bills would have jumped to more than \$1 million per year, from a little more than \$200,000.

"We started calling around, but nobody else would take us on," said Hugh Warren, associate director of planning and infrastructure. "Our fleet was safe in terms of vehicles, but we were unsafe with our drivers."

Had the increase gone through, every aspect of university life would have changed. "If we had gone to the Facility, quite a few departments would have lost programs," said Warren. "We had to get our insurance under control or it was really going to affect academic and research activities."

Eventually, Royal Sun Insurance agreed to take on the U of A if it made significant changes to the way it managed vehicle safety. And now, those changes are rippling across campus, affecting everyone from full-time drivers to students who take on summer jobs with the U of A.

The changes start at the U of A's Vehicle Pool where checks of drivers' abstracts will now become mandatory. Any new employee driving a university vehicle needs to complete a university defensive driving course and take a road test, and drivers whose records show more than seven demerits will be asked to rent a vehicle privately, using the rental agency's insurance. And over the next two years all permanent drivers will take a defensive driving course.

The university has had a number of staff members trained as defensive driving instructors who will also provide training in operating and loading 15-passenger vans. It has also set standards above those of the province when it comes to driving specialty vehicles. University employees driving 15-passenger vans, for example, will be required to hold a Class 4 Alberta driver's license.

Under Alberta law, a person with a regular Class 5 driver's license is probably qualified to drive passenger vans and RVs, "but we want even better training available for people," said Warren, who co-chaired the U of A's Accident Review Committee with insurance and risk manager Linda Dudley.

During the mid-1990s, Dudley says, the U of A launched a successful driver safety



The U of A is instituting new regulations to improve driver safety.

campaign that reduced driving accidents to 54 from about 100 per year. That number has slowly crept back to the 100 mark, she said.

Under the new initiative, the university will also provide training for students who take on summer research jobs. Brian Parker, a Department of Biological Sciences technician and a graduate student working with Dr. David Schindler, hires three to six summer students each year, who log a combined total of up to 30,000 km. The students are required to drive all types of vehicles. Some students also need to know how to tow a boat and operate off-road vehicles.

"As a public service organization, I think the university should be responsible for making sure people drive well," said Parker, who doesn't even grant job interviews to applicants who don't produce a clean driving record.

Barry McCashin, a technologist and safety officer for the department, is one of the U of A staff members who has become a defensive driving instructor. He says that although some divers operate all-terrain vehicles while conducting research, the focus at the moment is on automobiles.

"We've done a lot of work, but there is still a long way to go," Dudley said of the

accident review committee's work.

Other changes being made include a renewed focus on safety for employees whose jobs involve driving. Driving habits are being discussed at monthly safety meetings, near-misses are being reviewed and "there is a lot more emphasis on education and awareness of driving habits," said Warren.

"We're also in the process of putting together a University of Alberta driver's license that would show the qualifications you've earned and make it easier for the vehicle pool to approve drivers and easier for license holders to get access to those vehicles," said Warren.

Invariably, labour relations issues will arise. Can the university discipline employees who receive traffic tickets during non-work hours and whose driving records fall below U of A standards? And can the university make employees driving university vehicles accountable if they are caught speeding by photo radar or running a red light by a camera? At present, the university's insurance, not the employee's, will rise because of such infractions, says Warren.

"We've spoken to the union and agreed that these issues will be addressed, but further down the road," he said. ■

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6TH FLOOR GENERAL SERVICES BUILDING
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA,
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6G 2H1

LEE ELLIOTT: Director,
Office of Public Affairs

RICHARD CAIRNEY: Editor

GEOFF MCMASTER: Assistant Editor

CONTRIBUTORS:

Bev Betkowski, Richard Cairney, Dr. W. Andy Knight, Gene Kosowan, Andrew Leitch, Geoff McMaster

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Penny Snell, Annie Tykwinski, Dennis Weber

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Inquiries,

comments and letters should be directed to Richard Cairney, editor, 492-0439
richard.cairney@ualberta.ca

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Augustana merger one step closer

Camrose school could become faculty by April 1

By Richard Cairney and Andrew Leitch

The University of Alberta and Augustana University College in Camrose have signed a letter of intent to merge.

Facing financial hardships as a private university, representatives of Augustana approached the U of A earlier this year with a proposal to merge. Attracted by the opportunity to extend its programs to a rural community, and with the strong support of Alberta Learning, the U of A agreed to seriously consider the proposal. The letter of intent, signed Nov. 21, takes the possibility of a merger one step further.

"We are very excited about the opportunities the merger offers . . . to meet the increasing needs of rural Albertans for a university in a rural community," said Jim Edwards, chair of the U of A Board of Governors.

"Building on the history and well-established excellence of Augustana, the University of Alberta will broaden its academic and community service reach to the benefit of all Albertans. We are taking part in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to dramatically and rapidly alter the landscape of post-secondary educa-

tion in the province."

Learning Minister Dr. Lyle Oberg said he felt a "real sense of exhilaration" during the signing. "This is an incredible opportunity to get an institution such as the U of A out to a rural setting. It's an opportunity to have a world-class university in the City of Camrose.

Stanley Gooch, Chair of Augustana's Board of Regents, said the letter of intent preserves the school's Lutheran heritage. And while keeping the university afloat, a merger would assure Augustana's students of "a high quality degree granting institution."

Founded in 1910, Augustana is located in Camrose, 90 km southeast of Edmonton. The university college has a population of about 1,000 students enrolled primarily in the liberal arts and sciences. Augustana is a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

Significant steps have already been taken towards the merger. In June, the Camrose Lutheran College Corporation authorized Augustana's Board of Regents to negotiate a merger with the U of A.

Days later, the U of A Board of Governors approved, in principle, incorporating Augustana into the U of A with the status of a faculty.

The U of A approval was made under the condition that Augustana's financial liabilities are removed and sufficient operating funding is provided to ensure the incorporation does not transfer a financial liability to the U of A.

While the letter of intent does not confirm the merger will happen, it provides the foundation necessary to achieve it and states that the Learning Minister will work with both institutions and in good faith to accomplish this goal. Pending the funding commitment of the province and subsequent vote of the U of A Board of Governors, the legal transfer could occur April 1.

From Alberta Learning's perspective, the merger will advance the goals of 'Campus Alberta' and ensure the continuation of an important rural-based, post-secondary campus that has the capacity to expand enrolment and help ease enrolment pressures across the province. ■

The war on (legal) drugs

Are cross-border pharmacies a prescription for trade disaster?

By Gene Kosowan

The cost of prescription drugs has been rising dramatically in recent years, especially in the U.S. To side-step pricey prescriptions, many Americans have begun to take advantage of the low Canadian dollar and less expensive prescription drugs in Canada, buying their medication online from Canadian pharmacies.

So American patients get their medication at prices they find affordable and Canadian pharmacies benefit by tapping into the enormous U.S. market. Everyone's happy, right?

Of course not. The U.S. has strict regulations regarding pharmaceutical imports. In 1987, long before the Internet wormed its way into our lexicon, Congress passed a law forbidding the import of prescription drugs, regardless of whether they are manufactured inside or outside the country.

But with the advent of the Internet, enforcement of that law has been difficult. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and U.S. Customs have occasionally intercepted mail-order packages of prescription drugs from Canada, but to date have never prosecuted any Americans involved in the trade. In 2000, Congress tried to stem the drug flow by passing a law forbidding the re-importation of American-made drugs from abroad, but the act was never implemented because then-president Bill Clinton claimed the final draft was "full of loopholes."

And as the cross-border sales continue, the chance of much larger trade disputes emerging increases.

A University of Alberta professor warns that recent efforts by U.S. authorities to slash cross-border trade of prescription drugs could get nasty.

"If the Americans tighten up the border, we can get into serious trouble for our exports," says Rolf Mirus, a professor of business economics and an expert on international trade.

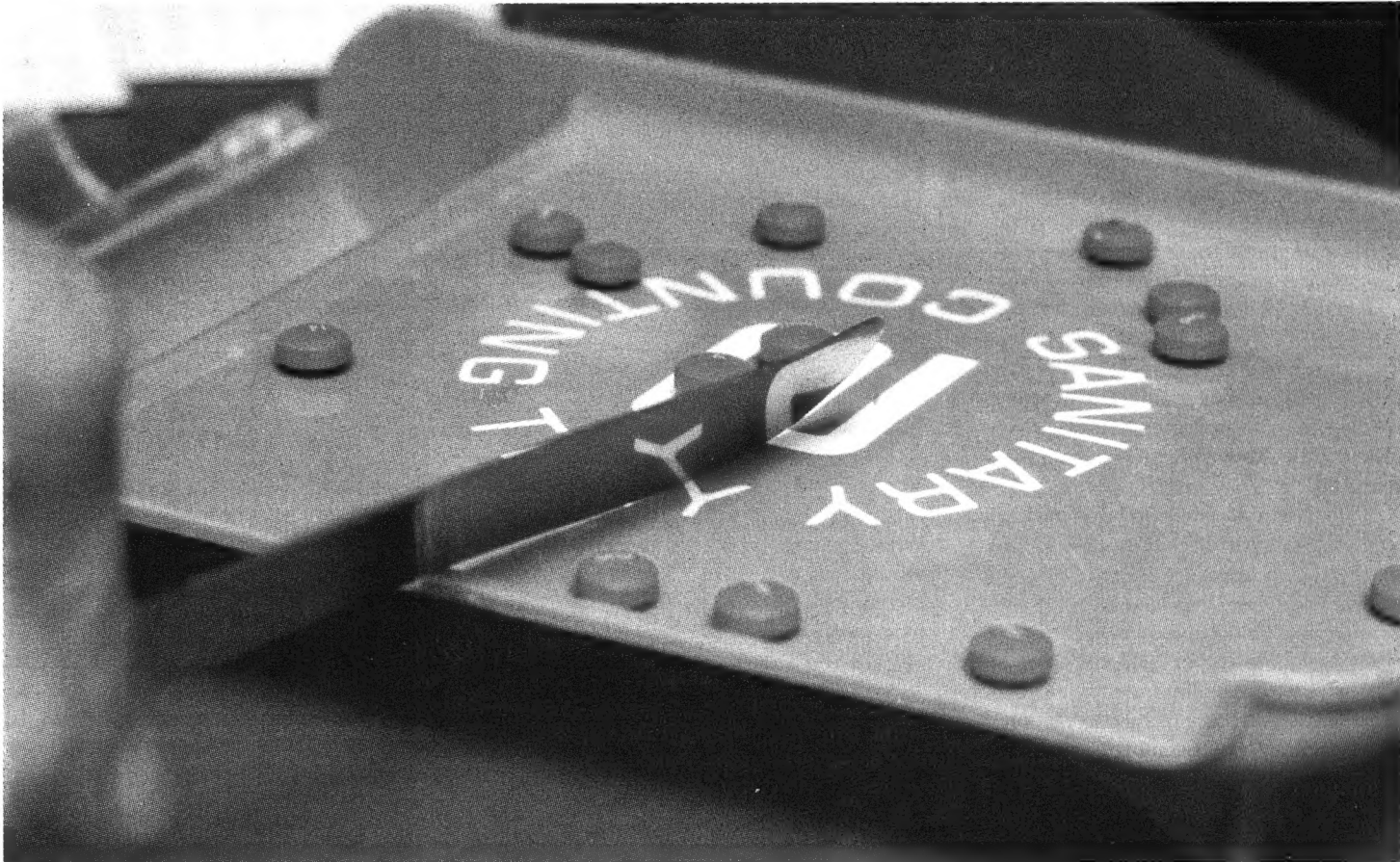
Mirus believes pharmaceutical crack-downs could not only slow down the shipment of other products between Canada and the U.S., they may eventually decrease the potential for foreign investment in Canada.

"Exports are only the tip of the iceberg," says Mirus. "If you can't get goods from Canada or the U.S., why would anyone want to plan any expansion, or open up subsidiaries in Canada? These are the longer-run consequences if the problem persists."

In the wake of a court order that temporarily shut down a chain of 80 U.S. storefront pharmacies that provided Americans with prescription drugs from Canada, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced plans to shut down the pipeline of pharmaceuticals flowing into the U.S. from Canada altogether. The court order, issued by Judge Claire Egan of the U.S. District Court in Tulsa, Okla., puts another 3,000 U.S. storefront operations in danger

"By having the outside alternative, you look at the high price at home and the low price abroad, and you are very easily aware of the differences. If I'm a poor American senior, I would certainly look at how I would stretch my low pension to cover my health needs."

— Dr. Rolf Mirus



Americans are spending about \$1 billion a year on prescription drugs in Canada. The practice has infuriated American drug companies, which claim sales in Canada could cost them up to \$600 billion (U.S.) in lost profits over the next decade.

of being closed.

The backlash extends to drug manufacturers, too. One U.S. manufacturer, GlaxoSmithKline, stopped shipping products to Canadian mail-order pharmacies, most of them based in Manitoba. A number of other manufacturers are threatening to do the same. Officials from Health Canada met FDA commissioner Mark McLennan in Ottawa Nov. 11 to discuss the issue.

The FDA's actions have pitted pharmaceutical industry groups in Canada against one another. The National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities, a Canadian pharmacist regulatory group, supported the U.S. move, claiming the mail-order pharmacy trend has compromised Canadians' access to health care. The Canadian International Pharmacy Association, a group representing national mail-order pharmacies, dismissed the allegations and called NAPRA's stance "Draconian."

The FDA and its supporters claim the primary motive for the plan is in the interest of public safety, despite declarations by federal Health Minister Anne McLellan that Canada has one of the most rigorous drug approval systems in the world.

If the FDA is successful in shutting down the cross-border trade, an estimated one million Americans who already get access to cheaper Canadian prescription drugs would take an economic hit.

Mirus, who doesn't buy the FDA's public safety argument, believes the plan is a scare tactic to intimidate Americans -- who already pay more for pharmaceuticals than any other country in the world -- from engaging in cross-border transactions and to protect pharmaceutical interests.

"We have Canadian rules with respect to drug safety and we obviously abide by them," he said. "The pharmaceutical industry says they need high prices somewhere to afford the research. Their argument is right now Americans pay high prices and indirectly subsidize research for the rest of the world."

Prices are at the centre of the cross-border issue. Americans who order Canadian drugs by mail or through the Internet have been known to save as much as 50 per cent on pharmaceutical costs, a boon to seniors on limited incomes.

However, the activity, estimated to be generating around \$1 billion in sales annually, has prompted drug companies -- claiming that the transactions will result in up to \$600 billion (U.S.) of lost profits over the next 10 years if the practice continues -- to push for higher drug prices in Canada.

"I don't think we should be raising our drug prices; we've been doing fine with making medication affordable," said Mirus.

"It's a potentially serious trade irritant between the countries. There are very powerful lobbies involved in the U.S. and we have limited ways of responding to the big pressures, but we do think we can maintain our drug prices and have some kind of compromises if this cross-border trade continues."

Aside from beneficiaries of cross-border medicine, the practice has a number of U.S. supporters, including Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, who last month flew to Winnipeg to talk to pharmacists and provincial government officials about helping his state's residents receive drugs from Canada. Incensed over the fact that American citizens absorb the bulk of industry costs, Pawlenty recently referred to the situation as "the prescription drug equivalent of the Boston Tea Party."

Drug exports are also a concern in Europe, where countries have jurisdiction over their own drug plans and language differences prevent cross-border pharmaceutical trade.

"In Europe, however, there exists an administrative law by which over time, directives can be given," said Mirus. "The process can merge the national plans to a European plan."

But Mirus doesn't see such a merging of jurisdictions happening in North America. "We have national jurisdiction

and we eagerly protect our sovereignty by not being part of the U.S. medical system. The way the national drugs and medical systems and pharmaceutical systems are built up are a national choice. The Americans have not limited drug prices to the same extent that Europeans and Canadians have limited them. If you go to Europe, there are also limits on what a pharmaceutical producer can charge. These are negotiated between the pharmaceutical producers and the national jurisdictions."

The cross-border dispute could also trickle into international waters. In October, the federal government announced it would allow generic drug manufacturers to ship cheap AIDS pharmaceuticals to third-world countries, a deal that was reluctantly approved by NAFTA partners Mexico and the United States.

"There are concerns that if we ship AIDS drugs at low prices to Africa, some of them will not end up there but get traded to some other places where the prices are higher," said Mirus.

"That's why the devil is in the detail. In principle, I'm all for aid to Africa, but if the aid ends up in Europe or in higher income countries along the way, this would be derailing the intent. It's nice to have a statement in principle and it's a good basis for a start, but how you actually do it in practice, how the distribution network works so it doesn't circumvent price controls or lead to this kind of cross-border trade along the way to Africa, is important."

"Some solution has to be found in how this cross-border trade is regulated," said Mirus.

"It's an aspect of globalizing. The technology makes it possible through the Internet to do business and try to circumvent national rules. By having the outside alternative, you look at the high price at home and the low price abroad, and you are very easily aware of the differences. If I'm a poor American senior, I would certainly look at how I would stretch my low pension to cover my health needs." ■

Middle East impasse must be broken

Will the United Nations play a meaningful role?

By Dr. W. Andy Knight

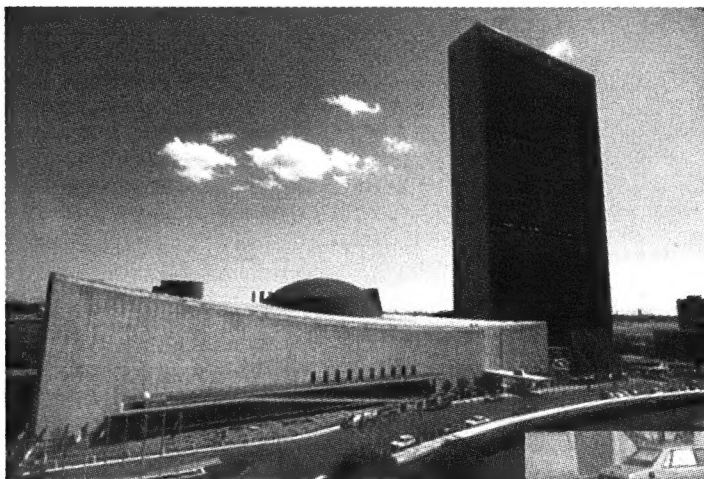
When the United Nations General Assembly opened its 58th session on Sept. 19 with a moment of silence for staff killed in a terrorist attack in Baghdad in August, its 191 member governments renewed a pledge to uphold the UN charter and international law.

The new president of the assembly, Julian Hunte, opened the session by stating: "I have high hopes that the General Assembly is ready to break new ground and to record significant accomplishments during the 58th session. To do so, however, requires us to choose principle over expediency, precision over ambiguity, objectivity over bias, and creative thinking over inflexibility. Above all we need action over inaction."

The assembly seems to have paid attention only to a part of that. In calling for an emergency special session to deal with the violent events that have taken place throughout the occupied Palestinian territory since September 2000, the assembly demonstrated its willingness to take action. However, in its haste to choose "action over inaction," the assembly forgot Hunte's advice "to choose principle over expediency" and "objectivity over bias."

The assembly was determined to correct what was seen by several countries—particularly members of the Arab group and nonaligned countries—as a failure on the part of the UN Security Council a day earlier to condemn Israel for threatening to get rid of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat once and for all.

Arafat is seen by Israel as the major obstacle to the new U.S.-backed "road map" for peace. After a recent string of suicide terrorist attacks within Israel by Palestinians, the Israeli Security Cabinet vowed to "remove" Arafat, whom it views



Photos: United Nations
The United Nations has been taking a beating in the U.S. and in Israel. But it has a chance to restore its credibility by being blunt and even-handed.



as giving tacit approval to Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations. While the cabinet was vague on how this would be accomplished, Israeli politicians' recommendations ranged from deportation to assassination.

The UN Security Council had met Sept. 18 to discuss what permanent observer for Palestine Nasser Al-Kidwa called "this illegal and insane act" proposed by Israel. A vote was taken to condemn Israel, but was vetoed by the U.S. This caused a major stir among the nation states from the Arab League, the Muslim communities and the nonaligned movement, resulting in the call for an emergency session at the General Assembly level.

The General Assembly considered a motion at its emergency session condemning Israel's attempt to neutralize Arafat. That motion passed with 133 states in favour, four states against (Israel, the U.S., the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia) and 15 abstentions (with Canada among this group).

In effect, the UN is taking advantage of

a precedent set in 1950 with the Uniting for Peace Resolution, which essentially allows the assembly to tackle issues that have bearing on international peace and security when the Security Council fails to address them. According to the UN charter, the council is responsible for dealing with such issues.

By choosing action over inaction, UN members responded to some of Hunte's advice. However, the end result was a one-sided, biased resolution. While it was expedient in its condemnation of Israel's declared policy of seeking to remove one of the major obstacles to peace in the Middle East (Arafat), one wonders how this resolution will advance peace in the region.

The resolution was a slap on the wrist of Israel for even contemplating the killing of a man who is still considered to be calling the shots within the Palestinian Authority. But, its imbalance was also glaring. There was no mention of Arafat's corrupt rule, his tolerance and abetting of terrorism, which has caused untold suffering and death in Israel, his sabotage of the emerging new Palestinian leadership or his refusal to dismantle the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure.

Those UN members who supported this resolution chose expediency over reflection. Let's call a spade a spade. The Israeli government has from time to time broken international law in its treatment of the Palestinian people. But Arafat has turned a blind eye to the acts of terrorism committed by Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade. The UN should have condemned the actions of these outlaws. Terrorism is terrorism, whether carried out by Israel or by the Palestinian people.

The unbalanced resolution will not bring Israel and Palestine any closer to peace. It certainly will not enhance the reputation of the United Nations in the eyes of most of the world's people.

The impasse in the Middle East will never be broken unless Israelis and Palestinians agree to coexist, even if they never become friends in the process. Israel does not help the situation by threatening to "remove" one of the symbols of a potential Palestinian state. The UN General Assembly only makes matters worse by condemning Israeli extremists without doing the same for Palestinian ones. ■

(Dr. W. Andy Knight is a professor of political science at the University of Alberta. This article originally appeared in The Japan Times.)

folio letters to the editor

Critique of teaching not entirely accurate

Editor, Folio:

Although Dr. Boothe is much closer to any possible institution-wide shortcomings at U of A than I am, I would like to comment on his column in the Nov. 7 edition of Folio, *A wake-up call for the University of Alberta*.

As interested alumni of the U of A my wife and I have made it a personal challenge to keep in touch with the Dept. of Geology (now Earth and Atmospheric Sciences). In an attempt to better appreciate where we might best direct our financial support of the department, we have toured the facilities on campus, but we have also visited two field schools. On our visits at Jasper and Waterton Park/Lundbreck we were particularly impressed with the quality of teaching the second and first-year students respectively received. At both of these field schools the instructors were not graduate students, but rather senior professors of a very high caliber. I was very interested in on the course material at the Jasper field school, an area I worked as a graduate

in the field seasons of 1954 and 1955. The various aspects of the sedimentation being taught were far beyond my experience in this area, even though both of my party chiefs at the time were department chairs at Western Ontario and McGill.

Dr. Boothe's comment that "Higher quality competitors are beginning to attract our best students", doesn't fit with the registration facts. If his comment is reliable, why is it that the geology department at the U of A has the largest number of undergraduate and graduate students in Canada? In addition, I should bring to his attention that U of A geology graduates readily find employment in industry, when numerous graduates from other Canadian geology programs find the job market very difficult. This last observation is not hearsay, rather a conclusion after visiting with a number of associates who graduated from other Canadian geology departments.

In an attempt to illustrate that I am not at complete variance with Dr. Boothe's comments, the following may add some

light to this very important aspect of teaching at the U of A.

As he has noted: Successful managers say they do it by walking around. My business mentor taught me this management technique a number of years ago, and this is precisely why my wife and I have visited the department and the field schools

prior to giving them financial support. This could lead to a positive approach to our Alma Mater and our alumni associates, by encouraging more visits to the campus, and in particular our own faculties. In this way we can communicate commitment to quality to all our stakeholders.

Darol J. Wigham, P.Geol.

folio letters to the editor

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Surgeons perform the West's first intestinal transplant

Prof's among select few who do delicate procedure

By Bev Betkowski

Little Kyler Prymak happily sucked on a bottle of iced tea as reporters swirled around him at the Stollery Children's Hospital. The blond toddler was the centre of attention as two U of A doctors introduced Kyler, Western Canada's first recipient of a life-saving intestinal transplant.

"He is doing exceedingly well, he's a completely normal little guy," said Dr. David Bigam, a professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. Since Kyler's birth in April of 2002, Bigam has worked closely with the child's pediatric gastroenterologist, Dr. Lesley Smith, who also teaches in the faculty.

Bigam led a surgical team in a seven-hour procedure last January to transplant a new intestine, liver and pancreas into the dying youngster, who was born with his bowel outside the abdominal wall, a disorder that affects about two in every 10,000 children.

"We knew from the time he was born that he would need an intestinal transplant to survive," said Bigam. When the damaged part of the bowel was discounted from the equation, there wasn't enough left for the baby to survive. Complicating matters was the fact that Kyler's liver was damaged by the intravenous nutrition he was receiving, and it too, needed replacing.

The nine-month-old baby was deathly ill when a family from somewhere in Canada stepped forward to donate their own child's organs last winter. The heart-wrenching gift came just in time. "We were talking about taking him off the transplant list, he was so sick," said Bigam. Kyler received a new intestine, liver and what Bigam called a "bonus pancreas which came along for the ride."

The surgery "has transformed his life," said Kyler's mother Angie Prymak. Kyler was discharged from hospital in the fall and lives with his family in Athabasca,

"Kyler has done really well and we have always been impressed with his ability to bounce back,"

— Dr. Lesley Smith



Kyler Prymak charms Drs. David Bigam and Lesley Smith. Kyler received a transplanted intestine, liver and pancreas in January.

about 200 km north of Edmonton. From the time he was diagnosed, Kyler spent three-quarters of his life in hospital until the surgery, his mother said. Today, he eats a normal diet and it's expected he'll need nothing more than regular medical check-ups. The youngster will also take anti-rejection drugs for the rest of his life.

"Kyler has done really well and we have always been impressed with his ability to bounce back," Smith said of the tot's long ordeal, which included numerous biopsies and a bowel infection.

Since Kyler's successful surgery, one adult has undergone the same procedure. Kyler's was the first intestinal transplant

performed in Western Canada. The same surgery is done in hospitals in Toronto and London, Ont., but the Stollery Children's Hospital provides a needed service for this part of Canada, Bigam noted. "When you have to get the organs within a certain time frame in the size of our country, you need to have a few centres in the East and West."

Worldwide, there are only 40 centres able to perform the transplant, and most of them are just becoming established, Smith noted. The surgery has been successfully performed since 1990.

Kyler's successful surgery is also good news for the U of A. "Most important is the

ability to use this opportunity to do further research" in disorders of the intestine, said Smith, who joined the U of A faculty in 1989. And since the surgery is the first of its kind in the West, she's hopeful that will be noted. "We hope it will attract research dollars to the university."

Both doctors spoke about the importance of organ donation, and Angie Prymak read a note of thanks to the unknown family who, in effect, made the decision to save her own son. She promised to cherish Kyler all the more, to ease the donor family's own tragic loss. "Thank-you for your gift of life. At your time of sadness you had the strength to think of others." ■

Students defeat multi-year tuition proposal

Grad students may still approve plan, earn voice on powerful committee

By Richard Cairney

The Students' Union has defeated a plan to radically alter the way tuition fees are set at the University of Alberta.

A special meeting of the University of Alberta SU was held Nov. 25 to consider a proposal to strike a multi-year tuition agreement. The deal would have seen students accept the maximum allowable tuition increase (about five per cent this year) for the next two years.

In exchange, the university promised tuition rollbacks and direct classroom spending if provincial funding increases beyond projections. The proposal also guaranteed undergraduate and graduate students' participation in budget decisions on the executive planning council, one of the most influential bodies in university governance.

But the offer wasn't sweet enough, according to SU President Mat Brechtel.

"The deal that was offered just wasn't the right one," said Brechtel, who maintains that multi-year tuition agreements ought to be considered.

"Our council debated this for a long time and what it came down to was a consideration of what are the benefits and

what are we giving up, and we would have had to give up being the voice of students, because students believe tuition is unacceptably high at this point."

Brechtel said the proposal left the possibility of a tuition break to "a crapshoot". And by voting against the scheme, "a possibility" exists that students will see a tuition hike less than the maximum allowable rate.

U of A Provost and Vice President (Academic) Dr. Carl Amrhein said he was disappointed by the SU's decision, but knew all along that the proposal could be voted down.

"My enthusiasm for working with the Students' Union is undiminished," he said, adding that the negotiating process had been beneficial to all sides. "I don't know if the glass was half-empty or half-full after the vote, but I found the negotiations with both presidents (Brechtel and Graduate Students' Association President

Lee Skallerup) very useful and beneficial."

Armhein said that if university administration and the SU can come to "a common approach" they will jointly lobby the provincial government for increased funding.

"Our council debated this for a long time and what it came down to was a consideration of what are the benefits and what are we giving up, and we would have had to give up being the voice of students, because students believe tuition is unacceptably high at this point."

— Mat Brechtel

Core funding to the U of A from the provincial government, in constant dollars, has dropped to just over \$2 per \$1 of student tuition this year from more than \$10 per \$1 of student tuition a decade ago.

Skallerup hopes the GSA can still strike the multi-year tuition deal with the university. The GSA council considers the proposal Dec. 8.

Graduate students are in a unique position because the pay they earn for teaching duties is tied to tuition rates: if tuition rises, graduate students get a raise.

Skallerup suggests that if the GSA accepts the multi-year tuition deal, it would either accept a tuition rollback and

the corresponding pay cut, or ask Amrhein to spend the funds in a specific area.

"If, for example, the only students adversely affected by a tuition increase are first-year master's students, and that's just an example, we could ask that those funds be invested in scholarships for first-year master's students," she said.

It's in the university's best interests to strike the deal with the GSA, Skallerup said, because the university has made recruitment of graduate students a priority.

"This is a chance for the university to show the graduate students they are a priority and an opportunity to ensure the GSA is involved every step of the way to help in the growth of the graduate student population that is sustainable as well as reasonable."

Amrhein says he will meet with Skallerup to discuss what kind of an arrangement the GSA and the university might come to.

"I'm sure we'll sit down and talk it over and see where we go from here," he said. "I will work with the GSA just like I will continue to work with the SU, but it will be different conversations." ■

University thanks support staff

New awards recognize valuable contributions

By Richard Cairney and Geoff McMaster

University of Alberta professors and researchers often receive accolades for excellence in teaching, making new discoveries, and serving the greater community. And so they should – their work is the heart of the university.

But the U of A's 5,200 support staff also make it possible for students to learn and for researchers to break new ground. This year, the university introduced awards to recognize outstanding support staff.

"We've got excellent support staff who help the university to deliver its mission and I don't think we say 'thank-you' to them often enough," said Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark, who helped organize the awards.

The recipients of the Support Staff Recognition Awards were honoured at a special ceremony at Myer Horowitz Theatre Dec. 1, as long-service awards were also handed out to faculty and staff. Nominated by co-workers, the recipients are Betty Daniel, Bien Nguyen, Farideh Mirzayans and Cheryl Smith.

Daniel oversees student teacher placements for undergraduate student services in the Faculty of Education. She also recruits mentor teachers, advises on placement issues and processes honoraria associated with field experiences.

Every term, Daniel is responsible for placing more than 1,200 students, all in environments that support their degree requirements, in Edmonton-area schools. "This requires from Betty many long days and many hours calling schools and recruiting teachers to accept our students into their classrooms," said her supervisor and nominator, Perry Thorbourne.

Daniel's response to the heavy workload? Bring it on. She is largely responsible for developing a web-based system to make the organization of student placements more efficient.

"You have an opportunity to help the students," Daniel said. "You just feel great about what you have done. When students come into our office and you ask any one of them what the most important part of their experience was, they will say it was the student teaching."

Because she deals directly with hundreds of teachers in Edmonton's schools, Daniel has become an important ambassador for the education faculty. She attends teacher conventions and "works the phones expounding the virtues of the Faculty of Education and the University of Alberta," said Thorbourne.

Washing dishes and calming nervous dogs was never in his job description. Neither are the countless thoughtful gestures Bien (Bill) Nguyen routinely performs during the course of his day cleaning, doing general maintenance and protecting university property.

"I just want everybody to be happy," Nguyen said, flashing an ear-to-ear smile. "And I feel happy when I help people – if

"You have an opportunity to help the students. You just feel great about what you have done."

— Betty Daniel

"We've got excellent support staff who help the university to deliver its mission and I don't think we say 'thank-you' to them often enough."

— Phyllis Clark



Dental assistant Cheryl Smith makes sure things go smoothly for students and patients.



Building maintenance staff member Bien (Bill) Nguyen shows genuine concern for the people (and animals) he works with.



Lab technician Farideh Mirzayans conducts research and keeps the ocular genetics lab running like a clock.



Betty Daniel helps co-ordinate student placements for about 1,200 education students, and manages it all with a smile, colleagues say.

"I just want everybody to be happy, And I feel happy when I help people – if they are happy, I am happy."

— Bien (Bill) Nguyen

they are happy, I am happy."

Cheri Harris of the Parkland Institute, one of two people who nominated, said the employee of Facilities Management, Building Services, has a warm personality: "He's always gone above and beyond here at the Parkland house, and whenever we've needed help, he's been there.

"There's a dog in the house, and he has to work around Cosette. He knows that Cosette is afraid of the vacuum cleaner, so he does the vacuuming when she's not there."

Nguyen immigrated to Canada from Vietnam in 1991 and says both the country and the university have treated him well. One of his children has earned a degree in computer science from the U of A and the others are leading "good lives," he said.

"Bill brings more than what is simply asked of him in terms of his job description," said Chad Blackburn, an administrative assistant at the Parkland Institute. "He offers suggestions on how we can more effectively manage our waste and provides us with contacts should we require more intensive and/or urgent building maintenance."

But more important, said Blackburn, is what Nguyen gives of himself. "Bill has offered myself and my co-workers his friendship. If he has time, he will sit and chat."

When Cheryl Smith accepted a part-time position with the U of A, filling in for a dental assistant on maternity leave, she had no intention of taking on a full-time job. Fifteen years later, she's still here. The people she works with couldn't be happier.

Nominators and co-workers Kim Koch and Rae Haynes declared that "Cheryl never has a bad day."

"We have a group of very nice people here. I could have nominated any one of them."

The work Smith and her colleagues do is like no other job on campus: as a dental assistant, she is assigned to a group of dental students who work on patients in clinics on campus. "Cheryl puts the patients at ease," said Koch and Haynes. "She helps the frightened child and is always there to lend an ear to fellow staff."

Smith enjoys working with the third and fourth-year students. The dental assistants, she points out, aren't teachers, "but we are there to guide them. They rely on you to make sure that everything is going to go smoothly for the patients," said Smith. Receiving recognition for doing something she enjoys is a pleasant surprise.

Farideh Mirzayans feels the same way. A technician in Dr. Michael Walter's ocular genetics lab for a decade and a U of A employee for the past 14 years, Mirzayans is humbled. "We have a group of very nice people here," she said. "I could have nominated any one of them."

Sherry Lydynuik and Dr. Fred Berry nominated their colleague because she seems capable of anything. Mirzayans supervises two technicians, works with two post-doctoral fellows and supervises three MSc students. She keeps lab supplies stocked. She has published six papers, one book chapter and 23 abstracts from her work in the Walter Laboratory. All the abstracts have been presented at international scientific meetings either by Mirzayans or another member of the lab on her behalf. ■

Dressing graduands for half a century

Bernice Pedden has seen it all

By Geoff McMaster

They call her Big B, and she has probably been involved with more University of Alberta convocations than anyone.

Bernice Pedden has been dressing students in their graduation gowns for 50 years this fall, ever since she started working for the U of A Bookstore in 1953.

In all that time, she can recall no major glitches. Apart from numbers, she says, and the fact that there used to be a student procession in addition to the academic one, not much has changed over the years. There are always a few gowns that don't come back, and from time to time graduates will leave behind a few mementoes – pyjamas, underwear and all manner of stains. But for the most part, she said, "it's been very orderly."

Pedden's first convocation--a much smaller affair with about 300 students compared to the 3,500 or so that graduate today at any given ceremony--was held at Convocation Hall in the old Arts Building: "There used to be a frosh convocation then too, when the new students started."

Long retired from the bookstore, Pedden keeps coming back to dress new graduands each year. As supervisor of gowning today, she keeps track of the numbers of graduands, helps prepare and size gowns, mortar boards and hoods, then overlooks their return.

The best part about the job, however, is

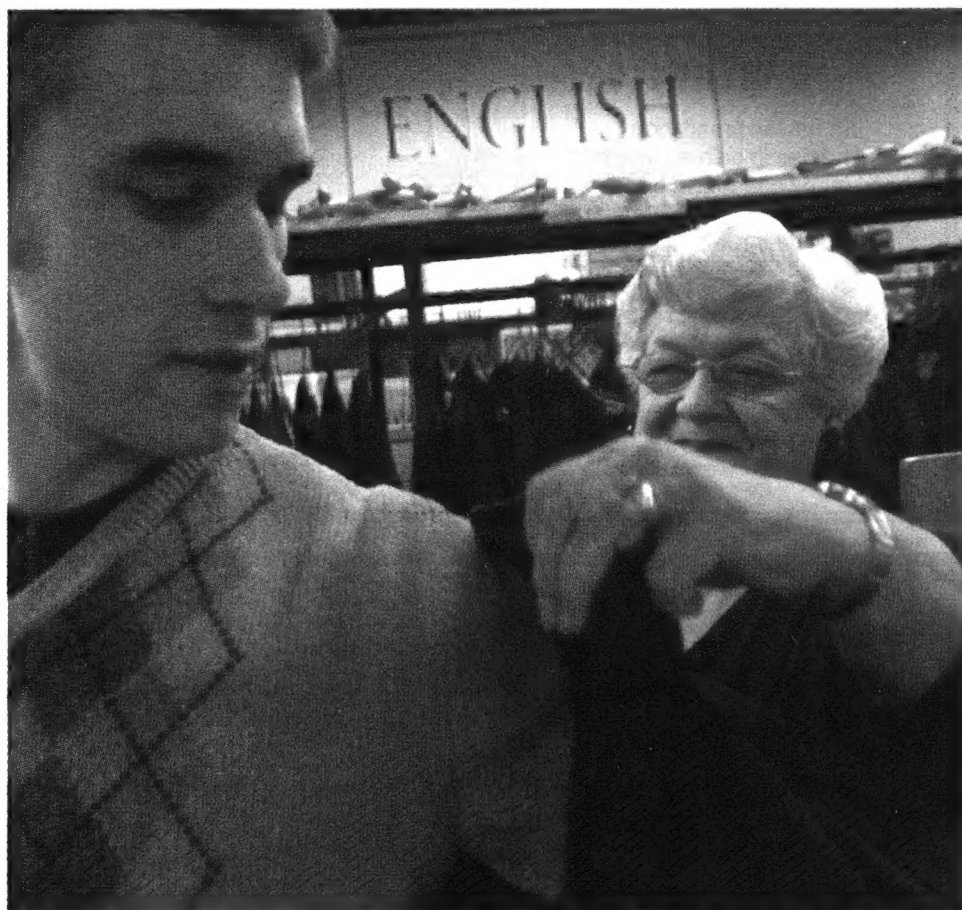
getting to spend time with her staff of nine to 11 gown attendees, some of whom have been doing it for 20 years, she said. "It's something we look forward to – for some, it's the only time we see each other."

Some of the highlights of convocations past, said Pedden, are the honorary doctorates handed out to people like the late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1968 and Prince Charles in 1983. She even had a chance to meet Princess Diana briefly during a mixer in 1983. Not that there was much time to chat. "It was very interesting, but there were so many people and we were busy dressing," she recalled.

Pedden has also dressed her two sons, who graduated in the '70s, and her granddaughter, who graduated three years ago. "When she went through, I surprised her. I came out from behind the curtain on stage and gave her a big squeeze." The only ceremony she missed was 21 years ago when her mother died.

Looking back, she can't believe she's hit the 50-year mark. After U of A President Rod Fraser announced her long-time service at the Nov. 19 convocation ceremony, one graduate turned to Pedden and said she didn't know anyone who's done any job for half a century: "I told her, 'Now you do.'"

"It sure doesn't feel like it's been that long. It's hectic at times, but we always know it will pass." ■



Bernice Pedden dresses a graduand. Late last month she marked 50 years of preparing students for their big day.



A donation from Burlington Resources Canada Ltd. will finance field schools for U of A geology students.

\$750,000 for geological teaching and research

Donation will ensure students have valuable field experience

By Geoff McMaster

In geology, there is no substitute for field experience. Undergraduate students need to learn how to read rock in its natural setting. At the U of A, that means taking trips around Alberta to places like the Badlands and the Rocky Mountains.

Such field trips have become more expensive in recent years, leading some in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences to wonder how long they will survive. But now, thanks to a \$750,000 donation from Burlington Resources Canada Ltd., the geology and geophysics field schools will have the resources to remain among the strongest in Canada.

"This is a nice gift from our perspective because it provides the classroom with tools which give direct relevance to real-world situations," said Dr. Greg Taylor, dean of the Faculty of Science. "It's this kind of partnership that helps us build our reputation as one of the top, if not the top, science faculty in the country."

Part of the donation will also be used to form a new resource geosciences research group, focused on oil and gas exploration, within the new Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science, the first phase

of which is scheduled to open in 2005. Burlington will also supply the department with data sets – often difficult to obtain because of issues around intellectual property – for use in the classroom.


The department runs four field schools with about 200 students after final exams in the spring. "The costs keep going higher and higher, and really strain our budget," said department chair Brian Jones.

Geology professor Dr. Murray Gingras, who spent three summers in the field school as a student in the early '90s said it was "the most important component of my education without a doubt...It's like the difference between being book-smart and having worldly wisdom."

The U of A has a long and illustrious connection to geology in Alberta. Dr. John "hard rock" Allen drafted the first geological map of the province in the 1920s, and in 1947 Professor Emeritus Charles Stelck was a key player in the discovery of oil in Leduc, a source of wealth that continues to build the province. U of A geology and geophysics graduates are pervasive in the oil and gas industry today, said Jones.

"We hope this partnership will help

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address our industry's need for world-class geoscience research and education facilities," said Mark Ellis, president of Burlington Resources Canada. "We have a long history of working with students and graduates

of University of Alberta programs, and it is a strategic step for us to enter into these partnerships to ensure that as we grow our operations, we will have qualified graduates to recruit into our programs." ■



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talks & events

Submit talks and events to Cora Doucette by 3 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings will no longer accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca/ualberta/L2.cfm?c=10>**

DEC 05 2003

Biological Sciences Department of Biological Sciences Molecular Biology and Genetics Research Group and Genetics 605 Seminar Series. David Evans, Medical Microbiology and Immunology with the University of Alberta is presenting a seminar on "Poxviruses: Replication, recombination, and DNA repair." 4:00 p.m. in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Host: John Bell. Website: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/>

Department of Physiology Speaker: Dr. Vivian Mushahwar, Dept. Biomedical Engineering, Ctr. Neuroscience "Restoring function after spinal cord injury." Time: 3:00 p.m. Location: 207 HMRC.

UNTIL DEC 06 2003

Studio Theatre Better Living by George F. Walker. A dark comedy about the mythological Canadian family. Evening shows: 8:00 p.m.; No show Sunday. Location: Studio Theatre, Timms Centre for the Arts.

DEC 06 2003

Fine Arts, Faculty of Extension Fine Arts Open House and Silent Auction of Students' Work. Join us for the Faculty of Extension's Fine Arts Open House on Saturday, Dec. 6th from 1 to 4 p.m. We will feature a Gallery of students' work, art demonstrations by instructional staff, and a silent auction of art by students. All events take place on the 2nd and 3rd floor, University Extension Centre, 8303-112 Street. Come with your family and friends and enjoy the afternoon! Location: Fine Arts Studios, 3rd floor; and Gallery, 2nd floor, University Extension Centre, 8303-112 Street. Website: www.extension.ualberta.ca

DEC 07 2003

Luminaria (A Candle Light Event) Devonian Botanic Garden. Don't miss this unique opportunity to enjoy winter at the Garden and to appreciate the beauty, simplicity and peacefulness of the Kurimoto Japanese Garden. The Luminaria will consist of outdoor pathways of lit candles placed inside paper bags, supported by sand. When lit at night, the candles glow from the bags and radiate a beautiful touch of soft light throughout the peacefulness of the Japanese Garden. Join us in a stroll throughout the candlelight pathways, sip on hot apple cider; and listen to story telling as you warm up around the fire pits. The whole family can have fun on a night hayride through a torch-lit trail deep into the Alpine Garden. You may keep warm inside the beautiful butterfly house or awe over the exotic orchids in the Orchid House. Snacks and drinks will be available for sale. Please call Laura for further information (780) 987-3054. This event will be held 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Location: 5 km north of Devon on Hwy 60. Web site: www.discoveredmonton.com/devonian

DEC 08 2003

Physical Education and Recreation The Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation will be hosting a Health Psychology/Behavioural Medicine Symposium from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in E120, Van Vliet Centre. International scholars in health psychology and behavioural medicine will be speaking at the symposium including Dr. Mark Conner, University of Leeds, UK; Drs. Paul Norman and Paschal Sheeran, University of Sheffield, UK and Dr. Gaston Godin from Université Laval. Please RSVP to Susie Johnston. Phone 492-0157 or e-mail susie.johnston@ualberta.ca Further enquiries: Dr. Wendy Rodgers, Associate Dean, Research, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Phone: 492-2677 or email wendy.rodgers@ualberta.ca Location: E 120 - Van Vliet Centre.

DEC 09 2003

Nutrition and Metabolism Research Group Visiting Speaker Seminar by Dr. Heather Dean from the University of Manitoba, "The changing face of type 2 diabetes in children and adolescents." Location: Classroom F (2J4.02) WMC. From 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

DEC 10 2003

Department of Public Health Sciences PHS Grand Rounds. Guest Speaker: Dr. Alvaro Osorio, Head, Environmental Health Sciences, National Autonomous University of Mexico, National Cancer Institute, "Toxicity of Air Pollution Particulate Matter: Size Vs. Composition." Location: Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. 12:00 Noon - 12:50 p.m. Website: www.phs.ualberta.ca

Dept. of English Len Findlay - "Prairie Racism and the Indigenous Humanities: Episodes in the History of 'Equality.'" This talk will be held at 2 p.m. Location: HC L-3. Website: www.humanities.ualberta.ca/english

DEC 12 2003

Department of Biological Sciences The Department of Biological Sciences Molecular Biology and Genetics Research Group and Genetics 605 Seminar Series. Moidrag Grbic, University of Western Ontario presents a seminar entitled "Evolution of developmental programs in arthropods: what can we learn from non-model organisms." From 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in V-120, Physics V-Wing. Host: Shelagh Campbell. Website: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/index.php?Page=2567>

DEC 13 2003

The 3rd Annual Charity Winter Concert The Courtyard Choir and Syncop Jazz Ensemble. 7:00 p.m. Adults \$7, Students \$5, Children under 12 Free. Tickets available by contacting Andrea Macyk (amacyk@ualberta.ca) or Andrea Salmon (andreak@ualberta.ca) or at the door. The Courtyard Choir and Syncop Jazz Ensemble are composed entirely of U of A medical students. Please bring a non-perishable food item on the night of the concert. All food items and proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Campus Food Bank. Location: Convocation Hall in the Old Arts Building, U of A Campus.

DEC 15 2003

Department of Biological Sciences Special Seminar. Dr. Tony Russell of the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary, presents, "Scaling the Spandrels of San Marco: Integrative Functional Morphology of the Gekkota and Anoline Adhesive Systems." at 11:00 a.m. Location: G 217 Biological Sciences Building.

UNTIL DEC 18 2003

HUB Mall HO! HO! HO! Scholarship Promotion. Enter to win a \$200 Scholarship courtesy of HUB Mall! Simply bring a new toy for Santa's Anonymous or a non-perishable item for the Campus Food Bank, and you will receive an entry form to win. Each donation allows you an entry form—the more the merrier! Contest open to all full-time U of A students. Call 492-2241 for details. Merry Christmas from HUB Mall! Location: HUB Mall & Campus wide.

DEC 19 - 20 2003

Department of Music University of Alberta Madrigal Singers and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Timothy Vernon, Conductor, Handel Messiah. Winspear Centre for Music. 8:00 p.m. For tickets information, please call the Winspear Centre for Music Box Office at 428-1414.

UNTIL DEC 23 2003

Christmas Tree Sales The Forest Society will be selling Christmas trees in the Parking Lot of Corbett Hall. 10 per cent of the proceeds will be donated to the University of Alberta United Way Campaign. Come out and buy your tree early! Location: Corbett Hall Parking Lot. Website: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/unitedway

JAN 9 2004

Department of Music Faculty & Friends, Tanya Prochazka, cello; Lidia Khaner, oboe; Alycia Au, violin; Aaron Au, viola; Joseph Haydn Divertimento HO611, B4; EJ Moeran Fantasy Quartet; Bohuslav Martinu Mazurka-Nocturne, Op Post; Benjamin Britten Fantasy Quartet; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Quartet in F Major; Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta. Admission: \$10/student/senior, \$15/adult. 8:00 p.m.

JAN 11 2004

Department of Music Faculty Recital, Piano For Four Hands. Roger Admiral with Jeremy Spurgeon. Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta. Admission: \$5/student/senior, \$10/adult. 3:00 p.m.

JAN 12 2004

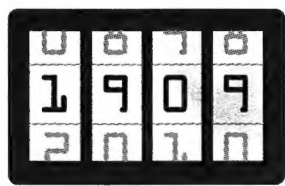
Department of Music Music at Noon, Convocation Hall Student Recital Series. Featuring students from the Department of Music. Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta. Free admission. 12:00 p.m.

JAN 13 2004

Department of Music Piano Masterclass with Visiting Artist Angela Cheng. Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta. Free admission. 7:00 p.m.

Nutrition and Metabolism Research Group Obesity and Cancer. Visiting Speaker Seminar by Dr. Rowan Chlebowski, Harbor-UCLA Research and Education Institute. Location: Classroom F (2J4.02) WMC. Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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Faculty of Science University of Alberta

Announcement

Faculty of Science Research Award

We are seeking nominations for the Faculty's most promising young scientists for this annual award, which recognizes outstanding research achievement. Nominees must have obtained their doctorates in 1992 or later.

Deadline: January 15, 2004

For details of eligibility and conditions, please contact:
Dr. Bill Samuel
Associate Dean (Research)
E-mail: bill.samuel@ualberta.ca
(780) 492-3169

Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching

We are seeking nominations from students and departments in the Faculty of Science for this annual award for individuals with outstanding qualities in undergraduate teaching.

Deadline: January 23, 2004

For details of eligibility and conditions, please contact:
Dr. W.J. Page
Associate Dean
E-mail: bill.page@ualberta.ca
(7680) 492-9452

notices

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2004-2005 KILLAM ANNUAL PROFESSORSHIPS

Applications for the 2004-2005 Killam Annual Professorships are now available. All regular, continuing, full-time academic faculty members who are not on leave during 2004-2005 are eligible to apply. Deans, Department Chairs and other senior University administrators with personnel responsibilities shall not normally be eligible for Killam Annual Professorships. Associate Deans and Associate Department Chairs are eligible providing they do not have personnel responsibilities. Up to eight Killam Annual Professors will be selected by a subcommittee of the Killam Trusts Committee; no more than two Professorships shall be awarded to staff members in any one Faculty in any given year. Each Killam Annual Professor shall be presented with a \$3,500 prize and a commemorative scroll. The duties of Killam Annual Professors shall not be changed from those that they regularly perform as academic staff members.

The primary criterion for selection shall be a record of outstanding scholarship and teaching over three or more years as evidenced by any or all of research publications, creative activities, presented papers, supervision of graduate students, and courses taught. The secondary criterion shall be substantial contributions to the community beyond the University, as evidenced by community involvement directly linked to the applicant's university responsibilities and activities.

Awards are tenable for twelve months commencing July 1, 2004. The completed application must be received at the Office of the Vice-President (Research), 3-7 University Hall, by 4:30 p.m., Friday 27 February 2004. The awardees shall be announced by early May, and they will be formally recognized at the Killam Luncheon in the autumn of 2004.

Applications and further details are available on the home page of the Vice-President (Research) at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/vpresearch/>. Please contact Annette Kujda, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Vice-President (Research) at extension 28342 or email: annette.kujda@ualberta.ca if you have any questions.

RUTHERFORD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

The GFC University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC) announces to the University community that nominations are now being sought for the annual Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. At least one award, but not more than five, is given annually.

The purpose of the Rutherford Award is to recognize excellent teaching, to publicize such excellence to the University and the wider community, to encourage the pursuit of excellence in teaching, and to promote informed discussion of teaching and its improvement at the University of Alberta.

Nominations are made by Faculties that teach undergraduate students, and information about the nomination procedures and adjudication criteria has been sent to those Faculties. Nominations should be made through a Faculty committee and submitted by the Faculty to the Secretary of UTAC, 2-5 University Hall. Anyone who needs assistance and advice in preparing nominations should contact Ms. Bente Roed, Director, University Teaching Services, 215 Central Academic Building (492-2826). The deadline for receipt of award nominations is Friday, February 27, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. In most cases, individual Faculties have established earlier deadlines to allow for internal adjudication procedures.

Award recipients are publicly recognized at a special reception, at Convocation, and at the Celebration of Teaching and Learning. They also receive a memento and a cash prize of \$3,000. The

prize is awarded to the recipients as a cheque.

WILLIAM HARDY ALEXANDER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SESSIONAL TEACHING

The University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC) announces to the University community that nominations are now being sought for the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Sessional Teaching. A maximum of two awards is given annually.

The purpose of the William Hardy Alexander Award is to recognize excellent teaching by sessional academic staff, to publicize such excellence to the University and the wider community, to encourage the pursuit of excellence in teaching, and to promote informed discussion of teaching and its improvement at the University of Alberta.

Nominations are made by Faculties that teach undergraduate students, and information about the nomination procedures and adjudication criteria has been sent to those Faculties. Nominations should be made through a Faculty committee and submitted by the Faculty to the Secretary of UTAC, 2-5 University Hall. Anyone who needs assistance and advice in preparing nominations should contact Ms. Bente Roed, Director, University Teaching Services, 215 Central Academic Building (492-2826). The deadline for receipt of award nominations is Friday, February 27, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. In most cases, individual Faculties have established earlier deadlines to allow for internal adjudication procedures.

Award recipients are publicly recognized at a special reception, at Convocation, and at the Celebration of Teaching and Learning. They also receive a memento and a cash prize of \$3,000. The prize is awarded to the recipients as a cheque.

COST OF DNA SYNTHESIS REDUCED

Effective October 1, 2003 the department of Biochemistry DNA Core Laboratory reduced prices on their DNA synthesis service. For further information please visit the Biochemistry website at www.biochem.ualberta.ca and the DNA Synthesis and Sequencing quick link.

EARTH AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES CHAIR SELECTION

The Chair Selection Committee for the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences has been established. Applications, nominations, suggestions, and comments are welcome. These can be submitted to the Committee Chair at the address below.

The Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences is unique on the Canadian scene in that it offers an interdisciplinary approach to atmospheric science, geography, and geology. The Department is internationally recognized for its excellence in research in geology, geomorphology, and various aspects of atmospheric science. Emerging areas of excellence include Geographic Information Systems, computer applications in the earth sciences, and environmental studies. Many of our faculty are internationally recognized scholars who are at the forefront of their science. The Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences is currently made up of 44 faculty, 22 support staff and approximately 130 graduate students. Research activities generate approximately \$6 million in funding support. Further information can be obtained from the World Wide Web at <http://www.ualberta.ca/EAS/>.

Applications, accompanied by a résumé, and nominations should be submitted by Tuesday, January 6, 2004 to Dr. Gregory Taylor, Chair of the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Chair Selection Committee, University of Alberta, Faculty of Science, CW223 Biological Sciences Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6G 2E9; or by electronic mail to gregory.taylor@ualberta.ca.

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ANNUAL SUPPORT STAFF RECOGNITION AWARD

On behalf of the University of Alberta campus community we would like to thank all who participated in the Support Staff Recognition Award program and extend our warmest congratulations to the four 2003 recipients.

BETTY DANIEL – Undergraduate Student Services, Faculty of Education

FARIDEH MIRZAYANS – Ophthalmology

BIEN NGUYEN – Facilities Management

CHERYL SMITH – Dentistry

The selection committee would also like to acknowledge; **CLINT GALLOWAY** – Housing and Food Services, **RON KOSS** – Biological Sciences and **JULIE MIDGLEY** – External Relations for their honourable contributions.

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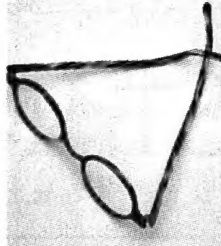
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FACULTY OF ENGINEERING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING CO-OP DEPARTMENT

The Co-operative Education Program within the Faculty of Engineering provides students with the opportunity to integrate their academic studies with related work experience. This program is already one of the largest in Canada and it continues to expand at a significant rate in response to student and employer demand. The Engineering Co-op Department, which administers the program, is seeking an assistant director.

The assistant director is the operations manager for the program and is responsible for the following:

- Organization and management of three co-op recruitments per year
- Management of the web-based co-op recruitment and records management system
- Management of student work experience records
- Development of program policies and procedures
- Recommendations on program direction, organization, and marketing strategies
- Counselling students

There is extensive interfacing with all departmental staff, students, employers and faculty members. The position demands excellent organizational, problem solving, communications and interpersonal skills as well as a strong background in the use of the Microsoft Office suite including Microsoft Access.

This position will be of interest to individuals who have administered large complex business processes and have a proven record of accomplishment in such positions. Ideally, the successful candidate will have considerable experience with a large co-op program and have a thorough understanding of the operation of such programs. Candidates should be outgoing and have a university degree, a strong commitment to customer service and a high level of energy. A vehicle and a valid Alberta driver's licence are required. During the initial probationary period, the successful candidate will undergo a training period working as one of eight Co-operative Education Coordinators and as an understudy to the current assistant director.

This is a full time Administrative Professional Officer position with a salary range of \$45,037 - \$71,315 and a comprehensive benefits package.

Deadline for receipt of résumés is December 10, 2003. Résumés should be forwarded to:

Dr. K. C. Porteous, P. Eng.
Associate Dean (Student and Co-op Services)
Engineering Co-op Department
E6-050 Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T6G 2V4

FOREST GENETICS RENEWABLE RESOURCES DEPARTMENT FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND HOME ECONOMICS

The Department of Renewable Resources, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics, University of Alberta seeks to fill a research/teaching position as an NSERC Industrial Chair in forest genetics and tree improvement. The incumbent will develop a nationally competitive research program in forest genetics serving the needs of forest genetics and tree improvement in Alberta. The applicant should have a PhD in quantitative genetics. Experience in the use of molecular markers in breeding of forest trees is an asset. At least one degree in forestry is desirable, as are experience with breeding programs, forest field research and good knowledge in mathematical statistics. The Faculty emphasizes excellence in teaching; evidence of novel approaches and interest in alternative (non-traditional) teaching methods is desirable. Teaching responsibilities may include courses in undergraduate forest biology and advanced courses in tree improvement in the forestry program both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The successful candidate will participate in the Centre for Enhanced Forest Management and may link to the environmental and conservation sciences program. The successful applicant will develop strong linkages with forest industry and provincial government tree improvement and biotechnology research programs. Leadership is expected in the development of collaborative research, teaching and technology

transfer activities both within the university and with partners in industry and government in land and resource management.

The position is anticipated for Jan. 1, 2005, following a successful application to the NSERC Industrial Chair Program. The current salary range for an Assistant Professor (Junior Chair) is \$49,188 to \$69,660; the salary for a Senior Chair is negotiable. The Selection Committee will begin selection on January 31, 2004. A letter of application, outlining research, teaching, and technology transfer interests, a curriculum vitae, a teaching dossier and names of three referees should be sent to the Chair, Department of Renewable Resources, 751 General Services Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1. Additional information about the Renewable Resources Department, the Forestry program and the Environmental and Conservation Sciences program is available from the Department web page at <http://www.rr.ualberta.ca/>.

All applicants are thanked in advance for their interest. Only those selected for interview will be contacted.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, PRIVATE SECTOR PROGRAMS CENTRE FOR EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The Centre for Executive and Management Development (CEMD) serves as a centre of excellence within the University of Alberta School of Business and provides executive and management education to a variety of clients in the public and private sectors. This new position complements the existing account manager in the private sector programs to respond to the growth within this program area.

Under the general direction of the executive director and in conjunction/collaboration with other team members you will:

- develop a sales plan for assigned existing and targeted accounts and track performance of successfully closed leads and opportunities
- conduct fact finding (through meetings, business periodicals, web sites) to determine prospect industry needs
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- develop profile of targeted customer prospects and formulate a customer contact strategy that may include face-to-face meetings, industry association membership, and trade-show or conference participation
- develop relationships with key decision-makers to grow and expand the number and size of the private sector programs
- cross-sell all products of CEMD to new and existing corporate clients
- assist in the marketing, selling and presentation of CEMD programs
- apply best practices in program development and design for customized programs. This requires working with clients to identify their learning needs using a variety of tools and investigating learning solutions to help clients achieve their strategic goals
- oversee the administration of programs developed for clients to ensure that program commitments are fulfilled
- ensure that monthly sales objectives for new revenue are attained

You will be highly flexible and adaptive, effective in working both independently and with others, have a client-centered focus, and be committed to achieving results. High levels of interpersonal, communication and negotiation skills are essential to achieve the goal of increasing the volume of, and demand for, CEMD management programs. Qualifications:

- Minimum of five years experience in sales preferably in the training, consulting or professional services industries;
- Experience in planning training and developing education programs that achieve organizational development goals;
- Proven success in garnering support from key decision-makers for leadership and management education;
- Demonstrated innovative and entrepreneurial approach in solving organizational issues related to continuous professional development;
- Minimum of an undergraduate degree in education or business or a related degree with an

emphasis on Human Resources;
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If you are interested in this exciting position please send your résumé and cover letter no later than Thursday, December 11, 2003:
 By fax: 780-492-1432
 By e-mail: Sheryl.Wolowyk@ualberta.ca
 By mail: Sheryl Wolowyk, Executive Director, Centre for Executive and Management Development, School of Business, University of Alberta. #203, 111 Street – 87 Avenue; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2R1

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Ringing in the Season

University's handbell ringers prepare for festive offering

By Richard Cairney

Robert de Frece has been fascinated by handbells since discovering them as musical instruments. In 1971 Wesley United Church, where de Frece was organist and choir director, amalgamated with Robertson United Church. Its music director, Douglas Millson, became a mentor to de Frece.

"He took me under his wing and I've been hooked on handbells since then," says de Frece, who teaches in the Department of Elementary Education and is founding

director of the University of Alberta Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers.

In 1986, when de Frece arrived at the U of A, a Calgary bell manufacturer loaned a set of bells to the faculty. Soon, de Frece had a group of dedicated students planning for a Christmas concert.

Robert Paterson, dean at that time, caught wind of the event and arranged to have it catered. And when he learned the bells had to be returned, Paterson purchased a set of handbells, on the condition that the group continue.

Two successive deans have added to the group's collection, which includes a set of 75 finely tuned English handbells and a set of 30 Suzuki hand chimes.

"We have the largest set of handbells in Canada and we are waiting right now for two new big bells," said de Frece.

The group performs with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Dec. 5, 6, and 7 and on Dec. 16 joins the Greenwood Singers and the Mill Creek Colliery Band, to present Music of Christmas: Voices, Bells & Brass, at 7:30 p.m. at the Francis Winspear Centre for Music.

Audience members can expect to hear "all the things you hear at Christmas time," says de Frece. "We play all year long but people get most enthusiastic about bells at Christmas. We got together and asked ourselves, 'what are various ways you can combine all the above bells in our own band with choir and a brass band?' We wanted to know how we could combine all these joyful sounds for Christmas."

Tickets are on sale at the Winspear Centre Box Office, 428-1414, or online at www.winspearecentre.com.



Photos: Chul-Ang Jeong



folio **back**
page

It's all in the family as Laura de Frece rehearses with the handbell ringers (top). At left, Gilbert Barber hoists some of the heavier handbells in the collection. The group has the largest set of handbells in Canada. The group performs at the Winspear Centre Dec. 16.